ID NO:181), wherein the purified protein is bound to a material comprising an active agent, said active agent being of value in the treatment of a mammalian disease or disorder.

32. (Amended) A method of delivering a drug to a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), wherein the purified protein is bound to a material comprising an active agent of value in the treatment of a mammalian disease or disorder, and wherein said protein is covalently bound to a particle containing a drug.

33. (Amended) A method of delivering a drug to a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition comprising a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), wherein the purified protein is bound to a material comprising an active agent of value in the treatment of a mammalian disease or disorder, and wherein said protein is covalently bound to a drug.

75. (Amended) A method of delivering a drug to a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric protein comprising (i) a first protein comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, said contiguous amino acids being capable of specifically binding to a gastro-intestinal tract receptor selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), said first protein being fused via a covalent bond to (ii) a second protein, said second protein being a drug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Please add the following claims:

98. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof.

99. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

100. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa_1 Thr Xaa_2 Xaa_3 Ser Xaa_4 Xaa_5 Xaa_6 Asn Xaa_7 Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa_1 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_2 is Arg or Lys; Xaa_3 is Lys or Arg; Xaa_4 is Ser or Leu; Xaa_5 is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa_7 is Pro, His or Arg.

101. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa_1 Asp Xaa_2 Arg Arg Xaa_3 Xaa_4 (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa_1 is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa_2 is Val or Gln; Xaa_3 is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa_4 is Trp or Tyr.

102. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa_1 Xaa_2 Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa_1 is Ala or Phe; and Xaa_2 is Arg or His.

103. (New) The method of claim 31, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNRR (SEQ ID NO:259).